



19<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In 2022, Bowen SHS consulted with the community regarding the introduction of a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. I am pleased to inform you that this program will be continuing into 2025 and will extend into Year 10 for the first time. From 2025, our BYOD program will proceed with the intention for every Year 10, 11 and 12 student to bring their own device to school. More information regarding our BYOD program will be presented during the respective subject information evenings for Year 9 into 10 (in term 4) and Year 10 into 11 (in term 3).

For your convenience, I have included some frequently asked questions to support you, as your child transitions into our BYOD program in 2025.

#### **What does your student need?**

From the commencement of the 2025 school year, all students in Year 10, 11 and 12, should have a laptop to support their learning.

#### **What type of device is required?**

The attached document, Device Specifications for Bowen SHS, outlines the requirements for newly purchased student laptops. However, if a student has an existing laptop the school will work with the parents/caregivers to try to make that device work on the school network.

#### **What about parents and caregivers who may struggle to afford a laptop?**

The school has a number of equity devices and has developed a confidential and supportive application process (attached) parents and caregivers can use to access one of these devices. If you require information regarding this process, please contact the school.

#### **How will the school support students to keep their devices safe from accidental or deliberate damage?**

In 2022, the school installed secure lockers are made available to all students who participate in the BYOD program. Students will need to supply their own lock and commit to keeping their locker neat and tidy for the duration of its use. The school strongly encourages families to purchase a protective case for the laptop to use while carrying it to and from school and between classes.

### **How will students be able to charge their devices?**

The school has installed a set of powered lockers that students can use to charge devices. These lockers have a unique security code that is reset with every use, allowing students short-term access to securely charge devices during lessons laptops are not required in and lunch breaks. Students can also charge in class under teacher supervision.

### **Does the school have the network to support the additional devices?**

The Department of Education has provided a significant upgrade to internet speeds across all Queensland schools. This upgrade proved extremely effective in supporting network access throughout 2024.

### **How will the school support students to access the network and work through technical issues?**

The school is continuing to employ a private contractor for additional technical support to students that require it.

Further information will be provided by the school through the Subject Selection Evening for current Year 9 students during term 4. Year 10 students and their families will receive information on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, as well as during SET Planning interviews on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August.

I would encourage any parents and caregivers who have questions or concerns to contact the school for further discussion and support.

Kind regards,



Mr Tim Close  
Head of Teaching and Learning



Mr Rob Harris  
Principal